



For immediate release
Contact: Laura A. Tomaka
(630) 925-1922

701 East 22nd Street
Suite 110
Lombard, Illinois 60148
Tel: 630.925.1922
Fax: 630.925.1930
E-mail: csgm@csg.org
www.csgmidwest.org

Representative Matt Pierce completes regional leadership institute

(Lombard, Ill.) July 11, 2006 -- Matt Pierce of Bloomington was among 37 select lawmakers to complete a leadership training program that identifies and assists emerging state and provincial leaders in the Midwest.

Rep. Pierce met with fellow lawmakers from Indiana, 10 other Midwestern states and three Canadian provinces on July 7-11, in Madison, Wis., for The Council of State Governments' 12th annual Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development (BILLD).

"In a little more than a decade, BILLD has come to be recognized as one of the premier leadership training programs in the nation," says Michigan Rep. Jerry O. Kooiman, who serves as co-chair of the institute's steering committee. "Since 1995, more than 360 of our region's lawmakers have graduated from the Bowhay Institute, and many of them now hold key leadership positions in their states."

Legislators from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin and the provinces of Manitoba, Ontario and Saskatchewan were chosen to participate through a competitive, nonpartisan selection process.

BILLD was founded in 1995 to help new legislators meet the demands of federal devolution and, in many states, term limits. These two emerging forces have highlighted the shortage of training available for legislators, a void that BILLD aims to fill.

A program of The Council of State Governments' Midwestern Office, BILLD is held in partnership with the University of Wisconsin's Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs. Courses and seminars are conducted by La Follette faculty, Midwestern legislative leaders and professional development experts. In addition to courses designed to develop leadership skills, the program analyzes a variety of public policy issues, including health care, education and the regional economy.

The program is funded through grants from foundation and corporate sponsors and an in-kind contribution provided by The Council of State Governments' Midwestern Office.

The Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development is named in honor of the late James Bowhay, longtime director of The Council of State Governments' Midwestern Office. Founded in 1933, The Council of State Governments has national headquarters in Lexington, Ky., and regional offices in Atlanta, Chicago (Lombard, Ill.), New York City and Sacramento, Calif. The goal of the national, nonpartisan organization is to assist and advance state government.

Chair

Sen. Donne E. Trotter
Illinois

1st Vice Chair

Sen. Patricia Birkholz
President Pro Tempore
Michigan

2nd Vice Chair

Sen. Thomas Dempster
Majority Whip
South Dakota

Immediate Past Chair

Sen. Kevin Coughlin
Ohio

Regional Director

Michael H. McCabe